

Seeing Reds

President Johnson's confidence in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as compared, say, with the Central Intelligence Agency, is mirrored on Capitol Hill. It seems likely, therefore, that his decision to send a team of FBI agents into the Dominican Republic to investigate the extent and nature of Communist influence there will serve to allay congressional fears that Reds, or what Mr. J. Edgar Hoover occasionally calls pinkos, are gaining influence in Dominican affairs.

But sending the FBI to the rescue of the CIA has other implications which may not be so felicitous. Mr. Hoover's recent remarks deriding "do-gooders" and "bleeding hearts," his apparent hostility to intellectuals and his well-known tendency to call any critic of the FBI communistic have all raised doubts as to whether he possesses a very sound sense of political color.

For a good many years, moreover, the FBI has

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had the responsibility of conducting full field investigations of applicants for United States Government employment. Extending its domain into the Dominican Republic may suggest to Latin Americans that it will, in time, be assigned to pass on appointments to public office throughout the hemisphere. No doubt this would give some members of Congress great reassurance. But it is unlikely to be reassuring to the Latin-Americans and is therefore an unfortunate disservice to international relations within the hemisphere.